



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street
Suite 700
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

501 West Church Street
Suite 300
Orlando, Florida 32805
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

October 5, 2006

**SARASOTA MEDICAL DOCTOR SENTENCED TO
22 YEARS IN HEALTH CARE FRAUD CASE**

Tampa, FL - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced that Michael A. Rosin, a 56-year old resident of Sarasota, FL, was sentenced late yesterday to 22 years' imprisonment. The Court also ordered that Rosin pay \$3,697,225.38 in restitution, payable to the Medicare trust fund, Aetna, and individual victims. Rosin also was ordered to pay a \$25,000 fine. On March 3, 2006, Rosin was found guilty by a jury on all counts of an indictment that charged him with thirty-five counts of health care fraud and thirty-five counts of making false statements in health care fraud matters.

The jury found Rosin guilty based on evidence showing that Rosin performed invasive surgeries that were medically unnecessary. Rosin justified those surgeries by claiming that biopsies that he performed on those patients showed skin cancer, but, in fact, the government proved that the biopsy slides showed no cancer or, in some cases, contained no identifiable human tissue.

Two of Rosin's former employees testified that they prepared biopsy slides with chewing gum and Styrofoam, rather than human tissue, and yet Rosin still diagnosed those biopsy specimens as cancerous. Rosin went on to perform invasive surgery on those patients.

After performing unnecessary surgeries on patients, Rosin billed Medicare. From January 1, 2000 through May 2004, Rosin performed unnecessary surgeries on 865 patients. Most of those 865 patients underwent multiple unnecessary surgeries. The significant amount of money Rosin made from the unnecessary surgeries, reflected in the restitution ordered, reflected a pattern of performing, on average, about 1,000 surgeries per year. The number of surgeries Rosin performed, in turn, reflected the fact that Rosin diagnosed 99.43% of the biopsies he took as cancerous.

At sentencing, victims of Rosin's scheme testified to the physical harm, including, in one case, permanent disfigurement, that they suffered as a result of the unnecessary and invasive surgeries.

U.S. Attorney Perez stated, "It is an outrage when a doctor knowingly performs invasive surgery that is medically unnecessary. We must continue to vigorously investigate and prosecute these types of cases."

Inspector General Daniel R. Levinson said, "The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, is committed to ensuring that fraudulent health care providers like Dr. Rosin do not unfairly benefit at the expense of innocent beneficiaries. OIG will continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners to investigate and prosecute providers who intentionally endanger the health and safety of program beneficiaries."

The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Katherine Ho and Robert Monk.